

SITUATION REPORT NO. 11
INCIDENT NO. 96-01
DATE: May 29, 1996 **TIME: 11:00 a.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring Flood-Devils Lake. (Separate situation reports are being issued regarding flooding in the rest of the state, incident #96-37.)

2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.

3. DAMAGE: The level of Devils Lake on May 28, 1996, was 1,437.27 feet M.S.L.

The Devils Lake water level is near the top of the roadway of ND Highway 19 at the Mauvais Coulee bridge.

Conditions of highways leading to Camp Gilbert C. Grafton concern N.D. National Guard officials, especially in light of annual training which begins May 31. N.D. Highway 20 is within one foot of being inundated with Devils Lake water. N.D. Highway 57 bridge repair work is scheduled to begin June 10. National Guard unit convoys may be adversely affected.

Devils Lake water is within 10 inches of flowing over the north/south portion of Grahams Island Road. This would isolate 12 families.

In Nelson County, seven county roads were barricaded after they became inundated with water.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: A State Flood Coordination Center meeting was conducted in Devils Lake, May 23, 1996.

The Highway Advisory Radio System, designed to alert motorists to hazardous road conditions in the Devils Lake region, became operational May 15. The system broadcasts road updates 530 MHz AM. Road information also will be displayed on electronic message boards placed at

strategic locations.

The N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced the U.S. Highway 2 grade raise near Churches Ferry is scheduled to begin May 23.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working with Ramsey County officials to protect two Ramsey County Rural Utility System manholes that service 40 homes by raising Stromme Road to 1,440.0 feet M.S.L.

DOT personnel are closely monitoring N.D. Highway 1 near Stump Lake as rising lake levels are threatening the roadway.

Six thousand seven hundred acre feet of water storage has been secured through the Available Acreage Storage Program. The State Water Commission is anticipating 8,000 acre feet of storage will be in place by early summer.

The diking project to protect a Grahams Island State Park bait shop has been completed.

The N.D. Game and Fish and N.D. Parks and Recreation Departments are raising all boat ramps at 1,440 feet and 1,440.5 feet M.S.L. Work is underway to raise the boat ramp at Grahams Island State Park, and officials are evaluating the requirement for raising the boat ramp at Black Tiger Bay.

Benson County and state officials are reviewing options to raise Grahams Island Road to prevent isolation of 12 families from emergency services.

Under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the Federal Emergency Management Agency is providing full compensation for buildings covered by federal flood insurance where the lowest floor is 1,438.5 feet M.S.L.

Ninety-one NFIP claims have been filed to date, and 55 have been resolved. An estimated 30 additional homes may be eligible for the NFIP program because of the adjustment made by NFIP officials, based on increased lake level forecast. Local officials state that the liberalization of the NFIP regulations is the reason for increased participation in the program.

A Federal Emergency Management Agency representative has been assigned to the Devils Lake area to assist with NFIP claim processing.

Lakota city officials placed rip-rap along the base of the west wall of the sewage lagoon to prevent embankment erosion.

A project intended to support and enhance ongoing efforts of local mental health service providers will begin in July, 1996. The project is designed to assess and implement plans for meeting the mental health needs of people affected by the flooding in the Devils Lake area. The project is sponsored by the American Red Cross and the North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Service in collaboration with the NDSU Department of Psychology and the North Dakota Psychological Association.

Ramsey County Rural Utility System has discontinued service to 44 accounts as of May 24, 1996, due to rising lake levels. The utility will lose special assessments and usage fees.

State Emergency Management staff are working with Ramsey County officials to identify those homes on Devils Lake in which the sewer system of the home may become inoperable due to lift stations and manholes being impacted by lake levels, while the home remains untouched. This information will be shared with the North Central Planning Council, which may be able to assist individuals with funding for alternate private sewage systems.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The next State Flood Coordination Center meeting will be held June 6, 1996 at 1:30 p.m. at the Ramsey County Courthouse basement meeting room. State Flood Coordination Center meetings are currently scheduled for every two weeks.

Signed _____

Douglas C. Friez, State Director